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C/O Freedom- Unlimited 2201 Wylie Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

412-758-7898

March 19, 2019

**Hon. Kim Clark, President Judge
Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas
5059 Family Law Center
440 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219**

**Hon. Stephan A. Zappala, Jr., District Attorney
Allegheny County
303 County Courthouse
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219**

Dear President Judge Clark & District Attorney Zappala:

A number of interested citizens came down early this morning to observe the trial of former East Pittsburgh Police officer Michael Rosfeld only to find, after waiting in for about one hour, that there was hardly any room for any us to sit in the courtroom where the trial was actually taking place. We were told to go into the courtroom #313 which is apparently much bigger than the room in which the trial was actually taking place. I was also told by someone who had apparently 'scouted' the 321 courtroom on another occasion, that it appeared that seats were actually taken out of that courtroom, thus *lessening* the capacity. Courtroom #313 has at least 129 seats, far more than the seats available in courtroom 321. With the level of public interest in this trial why would most of the public, including some family members, be forced to look at the

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trial on what amounted to portable projector screen, maybe 6' x 5' in dimensions. The screen should have been much bigger and we could not see much of what was being presented.

As one who was very much involved in the trials which followed the death of Jonny Gammage which occurred October 12, 1995, while President of the NAACP Pittsburgh Branch, I think I am position to state that there has never been a death of an African American male since then that has garnered more attention than the death of Antwon Michael Rose, II which occurred on June 19, 2018.

In addition to the great majority of those attending today's first day of trial for Mr. Rosfeld being placed in another room, most of the time those of us in that room had difficulty hearing and/or understanding prosecutor Daniel Fitzsimmons' words. I personally requested at least two staff members of the court to ask that Mr. Fitzsimmons move about four (4) feet closer to his table. At times we had trouble hearing one of the witnesses when he walked away from the microphone, and at times the words of defense attorney Patrick Thomassey could not be understood. You might also consider lavalier microphones.

As Chairman and CEO of the Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP), and as a concerned citizen, I am urging the two of you to make arrangements to have this trial, starting Wednesday moved into room 313 so as to accommodate more Interested citizens of Allegheny County. It is my strongly held opinion that the current situation does *not* allow for the transparency needed in a case such as this that has such high public attention and interest. It is Important that *all* steps be taken to accommodate the public, and to assure them that any interested person will have a 'first class' opportunity to observe the justice system at work. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely, *Tim Stevens*, Tim Stevens, B-PEP Chairman & CEO/412-758-7898 cc: Area Media

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